State of Palestine
Ministry of Health
Minister's Office

دولـــة فـلـسـطين
وزارة الصحة
مكتب الوزير

Updated Report: Tuesday, 20th February 2024

137 days of the Israeli aggression against Gaza

Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine

Catastrophic situation in numbers; the deadliest year for Palestinians

From October 7th until February 20th, 2024

Some of the information contained in this report is as of Monday evening, 19th of February 2024.

The Emergency Operations Center at the Ministry of Health in Ramallah supervises the data collection process through its offices in Gaza. Numbers are updated every 24 hours. These numbers reflect confirmed statistics only but do not necessarily reflect all victims due to the fact that many victims are still missing under the rubble.

The escalating atrocities in Palestine as a result of Israeli aggression surpass mere numerical reporting, constituting severe violations of all human rights. The health system is deliberately targeted, amounting to genocide on the Palestinian people. This insufferable situation demands immediate intervention. We call upon all international humanitarian and health organizations to urgently enter Gaza, ensuring protection for health workers, facilities, and civilians. Tangible advocacy and pressure for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the ongoing siege on Gaza is imperative to halt this humanitarian crisis.[1][2][3]

Current Situation in numbers: (Gaza)

- As of 19 February, the Israeli occupation military operation in the Nasser Hospital complex in Khan Younis continues. On 18 February, the UN and the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) visited the hospital and evacuated 14 patients. Prior to that, WHO Director-General reported that a WHO team was not permitted to enter the hospital to assess the conditions of the patients and critical medical needs, despite reaching the hospital compound to deliver fuel. Israeli occupation forces have arrested 70 medical personnel, including an intensive care doctor and the Director of Surgery, and eight patients died due to the depletion of oxygen. Negotiations are ongoing to allow for the evacuation of the remaining patients.

- The situation in Al Amal Hospital in Khan Younis continues to be critical, following a 28-day siege by the Israeli occupation military. On 19th of February, PRCS reported a decrease in fuel reserves to generate electricity for high-risk patients and a near exhaustion of food supplies. On 18 February, PRCS reported that the third floor

[1] https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against
[2] https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-un-experts-decry-bombing-of-hospitals-and-schools-as-crimes-against-humanity-call-for-prevention-of-genocide/
[3] https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20231229-pre-01-00-en.pdf?fbclid=PAAaanjzZcW1N3X8xUa5n2vOtSmJXRZGtuX25ee7DicJ6IvDv9355FU9Nco_w_aem_Af1J7V-j8lYZ0pM_D1CQooNZ6b2lctzS9pzFrRP92oaCO9tBVKTDkMB8DYqdS1aGUDk

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of the hospital sustained damage by artillery shelling and the destruction of the central maintenance room. On 17 February, PRCS published images showing signs of what they assess to be torture of two doctors who had been detained from Al Amal hospital by Israeli forces on 9 February. Twelve PRCS staff members continue to be detained by Israeli forces.

- About 29,200 thousand Palestinian are martyrs killed by the Israeli Occupation in Gaza since October 7th, 2023. About 70 per cent of those are women (about 7850) and children (about 12,400). As of then, about 69.100 thousand Palestinians have been injured a large proportion of them are children. It is estimated that more than 8,000 are missing under rubble. Obtaining accurate figures about missing persons due to continues attacks and inadequate rescue missions.

- The Israeli Occupation restrictions and blockade on aid reaching Gaza strip remains. The aid received in Gaza is inadequate and insufficient in addressing the essential needs of the population. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator stated that the humanitarian community faces challenges in supporting over 2 million people, including staff deaths and displacement, communication blackouts, road damage, convoy attacks, and medical facility attacks. Israeli restrictions hindered large-scale humanitarian efforts.

- The Israeli occupation telecommunication blackout is hindering residents in Gaza from accessing crucial lifesaving information, reaching out to first responders, and obstructing various forms of humanitarian response. It also poses challenges for obtaining on-the-ground reports about the situation and any atrocities occurring.

- After the Israeli occupation cut off the electricity supply and depleted fuel reserves for Gaza's sole power plant, the Gaza Strip has been without power since October 11. The communications and fuel shutdown hinders the aid community's efforts to assess Gaza's needs and respond to the growing humanitarian crisis.

Forced Displacement:

- Obtaining an accurate figure of the total number of Forcibly Displaced Persons remains challenging and the Israeli occupation continues to forcibly displace civilians every day. It is estimated that 85% of the population in Gaza (around 1.93 million civilians) are forcibly displaced. including many who have been displaced multiple times, as families are forced to move repeatedly in search of safety. Nearly 1.4 million FDPs were registered in 155 UNRWA facilities across Gaza, of whom about one million are registered in 94 UNRWA shelters in the south. Obtaining accurate data regarding the forcibly displaced persons is challenging outside of these shelters, given difficulties in tracking FDPs staying with host families or in the streets.

- Increased airstrikes in Rafah have heightened fears that they will further hamper overstretched humanitarian operations. Nearly 1.5 million people are in Rafah, more than six times the population in comparison with before 7 October.
- Intense Israeli attacks in and around Khan Younis (southwest of Gaza) over the last four weeks is causing loss of life and damage to civilian infrastructure, including UNRWA's largest shelter in the southern area, the Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC). This is forcing thousands of Palestinians to flee further south towards Rafah.

which is severely overcrowded. At the same time, population movements out of Rafah and towards Deir Al Balah and Nuseirat refugee camps in the Middle Area have been reported, following intensified airstrikes on Rafah.

- UNRWA estimates that at least 396 FDPs sheltering in its shelters have been killed and at least 1,383 injured since 7th of October and 158 UNRWA staff members killed during this period.

Health Care Access:

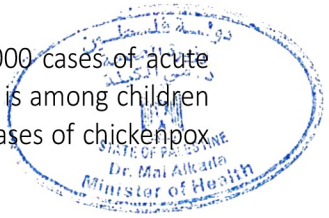
- On 7 February, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that there are currently no fully operational hospitals in Gaza, with only 36 percent of hospitals functioning partially.
- Additionally, UNRWA stated that out of 22 UNRWA health facilities, only four are operational due to ongoing bombardment and access restrictions. Only 13 out of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially functional.
- Hospitals in the north are currently providing maternity, trauma, and emergency care services, but they encounter several challenges, including a shortage of medical staff such as specialized surgeons, neurosurgeons, and intensive care personnel.
- A lack of essential medical supplies is another pressing issue faced by northern hospitals, along with an urgent need for fuel, food, and drinking water.
- In the southern region, the seven partially functional hospitals are operating at three times their capacity, exacerbating critical shortages of basic supplies and fuel.
- Occupancy rates in inpatient departments have increased to 206 percent, while intensive care units are experiencing an alarming 250 percent occupancy rate.
- Only 150 out of 325 known shelters currently have medical points with minimal capacity.

Acute shortage of medical supplies and health professionals at health facilities:

- There is a severe shortage of medical personnel in most health facilities and hospitals with an ever-increasing demand due to the continues Israeli occupation and attacks and the public health catastrophe resulting from the attacks, forcible displacement, and restrictions policies.
- Medicine and medical supplies such as anesthesia, antibiotics, IV fluids, pain medications, insulin, blood, and blood products are in short supply. Hospitals are experiencing a decline in the functionality of electrically dependent medical equipment such as monitors, ventilators, incubators, x-ray and CT machines, lab analyzers, and anesthesia machines.
- There are challenges in accessing blood banks, and this has compelled requests from the forcibly displaced persons who are facing starvation to donate blood in order to provide treatment for the wounded.

Public health catastrophe is rapidly evolving in Gaza:

- There is a high and alarming surge of outbreak cases recorded since mid-October: 223,000 cases of acute respiratory infections, 158,000 Cases of diarrhea (more than 53% of the cases of diarrhea is among children under five years of), 55,472 Cases of scabies and lice, 38,010 Cases of skin rashes 5,330 Cases of chickenpox 7,500 Cases of jaundice with several confirmed Hepatitis A cases.



- Decomposing remains pose a risk, heightening the threat of a public health crisis.
- Forcibly Displaced Persons (FDPs) are confronting the dual challenges of displacement and harsh winter conditions, including the risk of flooding. The combination of being forcibly displaced and exposed to cold weather poses significant hardships for this vulnerable population.

Driver*	Baseline	North Gaza	Gaza City	Deir al Balah	Khan Younis	Rafah
Dietary Diversity in children 6-23m	Moderate	Extremely Critical	Insufficient sample	Extremely critical	Extremely critical	Extremely Critical
Dietary diversity in pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW)	No recent data available	Extremely Critical	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical	Extremely Critical	Extremely Critical
Children reporting one or more diseases	Low	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical
Acute respiratory infection (ARI) in children under 5 (CU5)	Low	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Critical	Insufficient sample	Critical
Diarrhoea (CU5)	Low	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical
Other diseases (fever, vomiting, skin infection)	Low	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical	Insufficient Sample	Extremely Critical
Water and sanitation access	Severe	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical	Extremely Critical	Insufficient sample	Extremely Critical
Acute malnutrition (by anthropometry) in children 6-23m	Low	Critical	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Insufficient sample	Low

(Table 1: Summary of Nutrition Situation: Nutrition Vulnerability and Situation Analysis – Gaza/Global nutrition cluster – February 2024)

Health Needs and Risks of non-Communicable Diseases Long term conditions:

- 1,100 Patients in need of kidney dialysis
- More than 485,000 People with mental health disorders prior to the recent aggression. There is an increased risk of multiple psychological effects stemming from the intense bombardment, displacement and food insecurity coupled with severe physical injuries such as the loss of body parts. These challenges are further compounded by the devastating impact of seeing the bodies of the casualties around them and losing family members, homes, and dignity.
- 225,000 People with high blood pressure,45,000 Patients living with cardiovascular disease 71,000 Patients living with diabetes.
- More than 2,000 People diagnosed with cancer each year, including 122 children.
- People in Gaza are facing daily intense psychological stressors, including bombardment and severe barriers to fulfilling basic needs including acute shortage of needed medications.
- There is a substantial shortage of essential medication and healthcare services, is addition to the challenging access conditions.

Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health:

- Public health concerns are reportedly mounting across Gaza, disproportionately affecting women. This is due to continued bombardment, the lack of essential food and water supplies, the collapsing health system, and limited access to those in need of urgent assistance. On 16 February, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) emphasized the particular vulnerabilities facing women: "Everyone in Gaza is hungry, including 50,000 pregnant women, with malnutrition making them more susceptible to disease and less able to recover." Underscoring the immense risks facing pregnant women in Gaza, UNFPA warned: "If the bombs don't kill pregnant women, if disease, hunger and dehydration don't catch up with them, simply giving birth could."
- As of February 2nd, UNICEF estimates 17,000 unaccompanied or separated children in the Gaza Strip, each embodying a poignant narrative of loss and sorrow. This figure accounts for 1% of the total displaced population, which amounts to 1.7 million people.
- Approximately 20,000 infants are born into the devastating impacts of the Israeli war on Gaza. There is around 52,000 Pregnant women, and around 183 Births per day.
- Following the Israeli occupation's attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel, the available resources for assisting expectant mothers and their newborns have dramatically decreased, forcing some to give birth in makeshift tents and unsanitary locations.
- Health workers report a significant increase in the rate of miscarriages and preterm deliveries since the commencement of Israeli attacks on Gaza.
- In a survey conducted on December 26th, 2023, UNICEF highlights significant concern regarding malnutrition, especially for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, along with over 135,000 children under the age of two.

Food insecurity:

- According to the Food Security Sector (FSS), a consistent and dependable food supply to serve the entire population of Gaza continues to be hindered by frequent border closures, longstanding import restrictions of goods into Gaza, damage to critical infrastructure, and the security situation. Food insecurity in North Gaza and Gaza governorates has especially reached an extremely critical state, given significant restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In Rafah, humanitarian conditions have become increasingly severe, with continued reports of people stopping aid trucks to take food. Vulnerable segments of the population, including children, the elderly, and people with underlying health conditions, are particularly susceptible to the risk of malnutrition.
- Between 1 January and 12 February, 51 per cent of missions planned by humanitarian partners to deliver aid and undertake assessments to areas to the north of Wadi Gaza were denied access by the Israeli occupation.
- The entire population in the Gaza Strip (2.2 million people) is at an imminent risk of famine as reported by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in December.
- UNICEF stated that around 90% of children under the age of two are facing severe food poverty.

Recorded attacks on Health Facilities and personnel:

- Since October 7th there is an ongoing direct and indirect attacks on health facilities and personnel. The Israeli occupation forces continues to bomb and attack hospitals, clinics, and ambulances. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation forces have killed and abducted several health personal, in addition to blocking the lifesaving medical and humanitarian aid delivery to Gaza.
- Continuous Israeli occupation forces bombardments pose a significant threat to the safety of medical staff, patients, and the estimated 7,000 IDPs seeking refuge at the Al Amal hospital.
- The medical teams on the ground are encountering difficulties in transferring critically injured individuals from Nasser Hospital to nearby health facilities, exacerbating the challenges in providing necessary medical care.
- On January 23rd, the Israeli occupation forces bombed Al-Amal Hospital in Khan Younis leading to casualties.
- In total 300 attacks on health facilities and personnel. This is the highest recorded total of attacks on healthcare facilities and their personnel worldwide.
- 340 health personnel martyred and 770 injured by the Israeli occupation in attacks.
- 100 Health workers detained/arrested.
- 150 Health facilities affected including 30 Hospitals damaged, in addition to 123 Ambulances damaged.

The West Bank, including Jerusalem:

- UNICEF's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa stated that "this year has been the deadliest year on record for children in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with conflict-related violence reaching unprecedented levels."
- WHO reports a significant rise in attacks against health care facilities and personnel in West Bank, with over 340 attacks reported since 7 October.
- Since 7 October, 399 Palestinians, have been martyred by the Israeli Occupation forces in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and have injured about 4,600 Palestinian civilians, including at least 637 children.
- Since 7 October, at least 198 Palestinian households comprising 1,208 people, including 586 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions. The displaced households are from at least 15 herding/Bedouin communities. More than half of the displacements occurred on 12, 15, and 28 October, affecting seven communities. Another 537 Palestinians, including 238 children, have been displaced since 7 October following the destruction of 82 residential structures during other operations carried out by Israeli forces across the West Bank.

Urgent Needs:

- Immediate cessation of Israeli brutal war against Palestinian civilians.
- Urgent implementation of international humanitarian laws protecting health institutions and civilians.
- Immediate and unconditional entry of humanitarian and health supplies into Gaza.
- Aiding in evacuating the wounded in need for treatment abroad.
- Halt forcible displacement of civilians.
- Urgent support for search and rescue operations.

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